

COVID-Friendly Station Modifications

TREASURED

Discovering You're Priceless to God



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

VBS is on for summer of 2021! You can do in-person VBS with some simple modifications. We realize that every church has different comfort levels when it comes to gathering as a group. So if you're uncomfortable with a "higher-contact" experience, consider using these station specific modifications, in addition to the tips in the COVID-19 Protocol section below.

Adjusting how we do ministry will allow for ministry to keep happening! Your kids and families will thank you. You've got this!

COVID-19 Protocol

Always follow the CDC guidelines for your state and local government restrictions as well as any denominational directives.

For example, if your area is requiring masks, have volunteers and kids wear masks when physical distancing is not possible or if you're meeting inside.

When prepping supplies that will be distributed to kids, have a packing party. Volunteers can maintain physical distancing, respecting the 6-foot rule and wear gloves and masks as they get station supplies ready. Safety first!

Preregistration will allow for you to comply with COVID-19 in-person ratios. Plus, you'll know how many volunteers to recruit. VBS PRO is a great management tool option.

Space Crews 6 feet apart in station rotations, and use a one-way traffic flow, if possible.

Consider having a pool noodle for each child to use as a reminder to keep physical distance. Or have each child bring a beach towel to sit on as a visual reminder to spread out from Crew members.

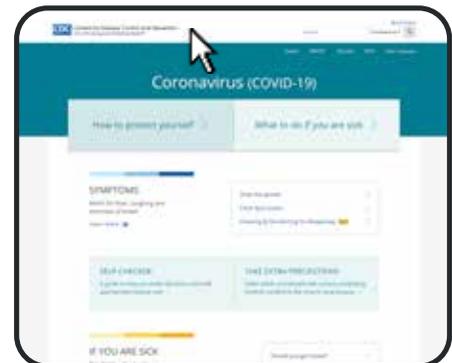
Provide hand sanitizer and have participants use it before beginning each VBS station. Add a small bottle to each Crew Bag. Or supply multiple hand-washing stations.

Have wipes or disinfectant spray to frequently clean items.

For games, have multiple sets of the games supplies so each Crew gets its own clean set.

If you include Vine Dining Snacks, consider preparing the daily snack only using store-bought items.

Consider holding most of your VBS outside at your church. Use the Neighborhood Checklist as a guide.



<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Recruiting & Staffing

Flexibility is the key. Don't worry! We always make it as easy as possible for every Station Leader! Two people can co-lead activities, especially to help with sanitizing and reloading supplies for the next rotation.

Crew Leaders play an important role. During such a challenging season, these leaders matter! These individuals establish relationships with children, are listeners during discussion time, and show Jesus' love in tangible ways. Crew Leaders, are a key part of the VBS experience, especially if VBS may be your first in-person event.

And how cool for kids to know they have a Crew Leader praying for them every day of VBS. Next-level the relational aspect by having Crew Leaders reach out to parents at the end of each VBS day.

Consider shifting your staff training to online. Utilize platforms such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, or Google Meet for your volunteer meetings. These platforms allow you to share your screen easily with a PowerPoint or Keynote, so you can get everyone onboard. Be sure to address how station supplies will be gathered and content delivered. We've included two blank Treasured slide images at group.com/VBSTools for you to easily create slides for your staff training. Just add a text box and type in your content or add images.



The graphic features a light blue background with faint icons of a microscope, a lightbulb, and a gear. At the top center is the 'VBS Training Lab' logo, where 'VBS' is in green, 'Training' is in blue, and 'Lab' is in red and orange. Below the logo are the words 'Learn and Belong' in blue, red, and orange respectively. The main text 'Interactive! * Online! * Made for you!' is in green. Two thought bubbles are present: a blue one on the left and an orange one on the right. A green rounded rectangle at the bottom contains registration information. The entire graphic is framed by a blue border with decorative elements.

VBS Training Lab
Learn and Belong

Interactive! * Online! * Made for you!

You'll LEARN...
how to plan, decorate, coordinate, and pull off an amazing VBS.

and BELONG...
Network with other people who share your passion for children's ministry. Befriend VBS leaders in your neighborhood or across the country!

Register your church...
for an innovative on-demand experience with live follow-up sessions.
Go to group.com/vbsTrainingLab for more info.

(The latest innovation from the creators of VBS FunShops!)

Content

Consider modifying your VBS schedule. You may want to do a full three-hour program, or trim the opening and closing so it's closer to 2 ½ hours. A shortened VBS schedule may allow you to skip the snack rotation, eliminating much COVID-19 worry. You have everything you need to lead a powerful, experiential, memorable, and life-changing VBS—no matter how many kids you have!

Make a few simple modifications.

Sing & Play Rock and Closing Quest

Create a “sing line” with a piece of masking tape. Encourage Crews to sit behind the line to create physical distance between kids, the station leader, and the skit person. The CDC recommends “at least 12 feet of distance when singing or musical instruments are involved, from performers to spectators.”

Refrain from having kids come up front to lead singing, unless you can space them out appropriately (from each other, as well as from those in the audience). Keep all singers facing the same direction, except for the station leader. This is the easiest solution for VBS worship time.

Space Crews 6 feet apart, if possible. If you have chairs or pews, leave an empty row in between Crews.

Lay out blankets for kids to sit around with their Crews. Sitting around the edge of a large blanket can encourage physical distancing.

Day 1:

Page 16: During Closing Quest, have your “contestants” stand socially distanced when up front for the game show

Day 2:

Page 25: Have the Crew Leaders maintain 6 feet from each other as they place the God Sighting gems,” on the set each day at VBS.

Day 3:

Page 38-39: During Closing Quest, for “Make a Blue Buddy” you may want your “assistant” to wear a mask as well as Crew Leaders, when they come up to get the “bubble,” particularly if you’re inside. Have Crew Leaders give a squirt of hand sanitizer before kids make “butterfly wings” with a friend or have each child make the “butterfly wings” with their own hands.

Day 5

Page 60: During Sing & Play Rock have kids do an “air” Crew hug or elbow bump.

Page 63: During Closing Quest, have volunteers prep the “treasure-themed treats” for Crew wearing gloves and masks. Instead of having kids be your “launch Crew,” have Crew leaders or other volunteers who would be comfortable wearing a mask.

Bible Adventures

Create a “drama line” with a piece of masking tape. Encourage Crews to sit behind the line to create physical distance between them, any actors, and station leader. Have Crews maintain 6 feet of distance, as much as possible.

Day 1:

Page 6: If you’re uncomfortable with kids circling up in a knee-to-knee circle on their Crew blankets, have them sit a pool noodle distance apart or on individual beach towels

Page 9: Have Crews stand in a socially distanced circle for the “anointing” and have Crew Leaders put their hands on the back of kids heads instead of the forehead.

Day 2:

Page 13: Have at least two sets of Flicker Lights for Crew Leaders, so can sanitize them between rotations.

Day 3:

Page 20: Have Crews huddle together, “back-to-back” instead of facing each other, covering their own heads with their hands, rather than gathering under a blanket.

Day 4:

Create a supply basket for each Crew or have at least two sets of supplies so you can sanitize the baskets and craft sticks between rotations.

Day 5

Create a supply basket with plastic rings for each Crew or have at least two sets of supplies so you can sanitize the baskets and plastic rings between rotations.

KidVid™ Cinema

Two Bibles are used every day for each Crew. Have enough Bibles so each Crew gets the same two Bibles each day—label the Crew number with a Post-it Note.

Day 1:

Create a supply basket for each Crew or have at least two sets of supplies so you can sanitize the baskets between rotations and reload the Watch for God Wristbands. Another idea is to put 5 Watch for God Wristbands into a resealable bag for each Crew.

Day 2:

Page 16: if you’re uncomfortable with Crews holding hands for the closing prayer, just have them bow their heads and fold their own hands. But, if you did hand sanitizer on the way in, you’re good-to-go!

Vine Dining Snacks

Have your snack team prepare the snack trays wearing gloves and masks. Simply modify the snack ideas in the Vine Dining Snacks Leader Manual so each child receives his or her own snack plate, rather than a Crew tray of snack supplies. Let kids gather outside for snack time—preceded and followed by hand-washing! If you want to be extra cautious, provide a store-bought snack for kids. If you are shortening your VBS program, you could skip the snack rotation entirely.

Imagination Station

Gather kids outdoors if weather permits. Give kids a squirt of hand sanitizer at the very beginning of the rotation. Create a daily supply basket for each Crew or have at least two sets of supplies so you can sanitize the baskets between rotation and reload supplies. (On Day 1 you need two supply baskets per Crew.)

Omit having kids vote with the beads and fireboxes throughout the week. Instead, have them talk about the responses with their Crews.

Day 2:

Page 13: Create a “spoon gong” for each Crew or have two sets so the spoon gongs can be sanitized between rotations.

Day 3:

Page 19: Create a “Mystery Bag” for each Crew. Paper bags and chenille stems won’t dry very quickly when sanitized.

Day 4:

Page 26: Print a set of the “Optical Illusions” for each Crew and recycle them or throw them away after use.

Day 5

Page 35: Print the “Camouflage Critters Card” handout for each Crew and recycle them or throw them away after use.

Jungle Gym Games

Determine if you'll include Operation Kid-to-Kid. Kids across the globe have been impacted by COVID-19, and the children in your community will gain a sense of empowerment at helping kids in Ecuador! One game option each day connects with Operation Kid-to-Kid, so if you're not incorporating this missions project, simply omit that option. Games modifications below allow for non-contact games.

Day 1:

In "Connection Collection," space the three chairs far enough apart so kids can physically distance themselves from others and remind kids to gather "physically distance around the chairs," instead of a tight group.

For "Tagged as Treasured" give the "tagger" a pool noodle to use for the "tagging." Grab the pool noodles from the Day 2 game supplies.

Day 2:

For "Jungle Jam and Mosquito Tag," have enough spray bottles for two rotations so you can sanitize a set between rotations.

For "Mosquito Tag" have enough pool noodles for two rotations so you can sanitize a set between rotations.

Day 3:

For "Dress Your Buzzy Best" have enough pool noodles, oversized sunglasses, chenille stems, and fabric for two rotations so you can sanitize a set between rotations. Throw away the chenille stems after all the rotations.

If you choose "Fruit Toss," omit having partners link elbows.

If you choose "Treasure Trove Shuffle," have two set of multi-colored pompoms, so they can be sanitized between rotations.

Day 4:

⊘ Omit "Spider, May I" or modify by having kids say "tagged" instead of physically tagging.

Day 5

For "Jungle Swamp Kickball," have four large rubber playground balls, so you can sanitize a set between rotations.

Kinkajou Cove Preschool

Preschoolers learn with all their senses—that means by doing and touching! We recommend handwashing or kid-friendly hand sanitizer before each rotation so you can keep as many of these experiential activities as possible.

Exploration Stations

These are designed to be unstructured activities. Make them COVID-friendly by having an entire Crew rotate to each station together. Provide a sanitized set of supplies as a new Crew visits the station. Include the play dough experiences on Day 3 and 5 by purchasing individual 1oz canisters of dough from a dollar store for each child. Label the canister with the child's name and send home on Day 5! If you do not purchase individual canisters or dough, omit the "Stress Reliever" on Day 3 and "Make Me!" on Day 5.

Closing Circle

Remind Crews to sit at least 6 feet apart. A pool noodle is a great visual reminder for preschoolers.

Bible Adventure & Missions

Day 2:

Page 19: Have Crews "hide" by putting their hands over their heads instead of under their Crew blanket.

KidVid Cinema

Each day Crews will be invited to "circle up" in a knee-to-knee circle. Invite Crews to sit socially-distance in their Crew, rather than a knee-to-knee circle. Pool noodles work create as a visual reminder for preschoolers!

Day 5

⊘ Omit the "Fun Hug" and do an air high-five instead.

Craft & Play

Create a daily supply basket for each Crew or have at least two sets so you can sanitize reusable supplies like crayons, glue sticks and markers between rotation and reload supplies.

Games

Play the games outside if possible. Give kids a squirt of hand sanitizer before playing. Here are three options on how to handle supplies. Have one set of game supplies for each rotation, so each group gets a clean set. Have two complete sets so you can sanitize between rotations. Or use the additional modifications below.

Day 1:

⊘ Omit "Baa Tag"